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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/836,904	04/17/2001	Huw K. Thomas	MI8-001	6555

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EXAMINER

CHOUDHURY, AZIZUL Q

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2143

DATE MAILED: 08/13/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/836,904	Applicant(s) THOMAS ET AL.	
	Examiner Azizul Choudhury	Art Unit 2143	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
 - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 April 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-37 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-37 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 17 April 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>6/14/2001</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Detailed Action

Claim Objections

Claims 12-15 and 30-33 are objected to because of the following informalities: Trademarked terminology, such as Microsoft, require the TM emblem. Hence, the term Microsoft should be entered as MicrosoftTM to preserve its trademark. Appropriate correction are requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Salo et al (US Pat No: US006563800B1), hereafter referred to as Salo.

1. With regards to claim 1, Salo teaches an extension for extending a Messaging Application Programming Interface (MAPI) client for operation with a MAPI server across a network, comprising: an interface for integrating with the MAPI client; and a communication initiator for causing the MAPI client to initiate a communications session from the MAPI client

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to the MAPI server, wherein the communications session allows for communication between the MAPI client and the MAPI server (Salo teaches a network design (Figure 1C) that uses MAPI (column 13, lines 30-47, Salo). The network contains clients and servers as claimed. Furthermore, it is inherent that means for initiating and maintaining communication sessions in networks be present. Salo discloses that such means are present within the design (column 7, lines 36-38, Salo)).

2. With regards to claims 2 and 21, Salo teaches the extension wherein the communication between the MAPI client and the MAPI server comprises notification of new electronic mail messages (Salo's design allows for email systems (column 3, lines 51-65, Salo). Emails inherently possess new mail notification means, especially since Salo's disclosure uses Microsoft Exchange as an example email system (column 4, line 1, Salo)).
3. With regards to claims 3 and 22, Salo teaches the extension wherein the communication between the MAPI client and the MAPI server comprises communication of new electronic mail messages (Salo's design allows for email systems (column 3, lines 51-65, Salo). It actually focuses on a network for providing messages, including emails. Hence the claimed traits are inherently present within Salo's design).

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4. With regards to claims 4 and 23, Salo teaches the extension wherein the communication between the MAPI client and the MAPI server comprises communication of at least one of calendar items; task items, information about calendar items, information about task items, or some combination (Salo's design allows for calendar items (column 3, lines 51-65, Salo)).
5. With regards to claims 5 and 24, Salo teaches the extension wherein the initiator initiates the communications session upon the occurrence on an event (Salo's design allows for event services (column 13, lines 30-47, Salo). This means that tasks are performed (such as the claimed session initiation) upon events based upon customer preference selections (column 17, lines 50-67, Salo)).
6. With regards to claims 6 and 25, Salo teaches the extension wherein the event comprises a mouse movement (Salo's design allows for event services (column 13, lines 30-47, Salo). No restrictions are placed within the design as to what form of events are permissible, hence the claimed event is acceptable).
7. With regards to claims 7 and 26, Salo teaches the extension wherein the event comprises selection of a menu item (Salo's design allows for event services (column 13, lines 30-47, Salo). No restrictions are placed within

the design as to what form of events are permissible, hence the claimed event is acceptable).

8. With regards to claims 8 and 27, Salo teaches the extension wherein the initiator periodically initiates a communications session (Salo's design allows for the communication session to be sustained (column 7, lines 36-38, Salo). In addition, Salo's design is also able to periodically transmit requests (column 18, lines 4-5, Salo). Session initiations are requests. Hence, as claimed, Salo's design has means by which to periodically initiate sessions).
9. With regards to claim 9, Salo teaches the extension wherein the initiator comprises a timer for periodically initiating a communications session (Salo's design allows for the communication session to be sustained (column 7, lines 36-38, Salo). In addition, Salo's design is also able to periodically transmit requests (column 18, lines 4-5, Salo). Since tasks are performed periodically, it is inherent that Salo's design possesses the claimed timer).
10. With regards to claims 10 and 28, Salo teaches the extension wherein the initiator comprises a timer for periodically initiating a communications session at a predetermined time interval (Salo's design allows for the communication session to be sustained (column 7, lines 36-38, Salo). In

addition, Salo's design is also able to periodically transmit requests (column 18, lines 4-5, Salo). Since tasks are performed periodically, it is inherent that Salo's design possesses the claimed timer and that the time interval be able to be predetermined).

11. With regards to claims 11 and 29, Salo teaches the extension further comprising a user interface for facilitating configuration of the predetermined time interval by a user of the MAPI client ((Salo's design allows for the communication session to be sustained (column 7, lines 36-38, Salo). In addition, Salo's design is also able to periodically transmit requests (column 18, lines 4-5, Salo). Since tasks are performed periodically, it is inherent that Salo's design possesses the claimed timer and that the time interval be able to be predetermined. Furthermore, Salo's design allows for preferences to be adjusted (column 17, line 67, Salo)).

12. With regards to claims 12 and 30, Salo teaches the extension wherein the MAPI client comprises a MICROSOFT OFFICE software application (Salo's design allows for the use of Microsoft™ programs (column 13, lines 30-47, Salo)).

13. With regards to claims 13 and 31, Salo teaches the extension wherein the MAPI client comprises MICROSOFT OUTLOOK (Salo's design allows for

the use of Microsoft™ programs (column 13, lines 30-47, Salo). In addition, Salo's design allows for email such as Microsoft™ Exchange).

14. With regards to claims 14 and 32, Salo teaches the extension wherein the MAPI server comprises MICROSOFT EXCHANGE (Salo's design allows for the use of Microsoft™ programs (column 13, lines 30-47, Salo). In addition, Salo's design allows for email such as Microsoft™ Exchange).

15. With regards to claims 15 and 33, Salo teaches the extension wherein the MAPI server comprises MICROSOFT EXCHANGE (Salo's design allows for the use of Microsoft™ programs (column 13, lines 30-47, Salo). In addition, Salo's design allows for email such as Microsoft™ Exchange).

16. With regards to claims 16 and 34, Salo teaches the exchange wherein the network comprises a gateway located between a first network and a second network, and wherein the gateway implements at least one of network address translation (NAT) and port address translation (PAT) (Salo's design uses gateways (column 3, lines 51-65, Salo). In addition, since Salo's design allows for multiple users and requires the data (emails) to be transferred between different networks using different protocols, it is inherent that the claimed NAT and PAT traits are present within Salo's design).

17. With regards to claims 17 and 35, Salo teaches the extension wherein the network comprises a gateway connecting a first network and a second network, and wherein the server is in communication with the first network and wherein the client is in communication with the second network, and wherein the gateway prevents communication initiation from the server to the client (Salo's design uses gateways (column 3, lines 51-65, Salo). In addition, Salo's design also connects one network to another (Figure 1C). Furthermore, the claimed prevention step is a feature that gateways are able to provide).

18. With regards to claims 18 and 36, Salo teaches the extension wherein the gateway comprises a firewall (Salo's design uses firewalls with the gateway (column 3, lines 51-65, Salo) (Figure 1C). In addition, firewalls are commonly present in gateways).

19. With regards to claim 19, Salo teaches a method for extending a Messaging Application Programming Interface (MAPI) client for operation with a MAPI server across a network, comprising the steps of: providing an extension to the MAPI client; and initiating by the extension a communications session from the MAPI client to the MAPI server, wherein the communications session allows for communication between the MAPI client and the MAPI server (Salo teaches a network design (Figure 1C) that uses MAPI (column 13, lines 30-47, Salo). The network contains

clients and servers as claimed. Furthermore, it is inherent that means for initiating and maintaining communication sessions in networks be present. Salo discloses that such means are present within the design (column 7, lines 36-38, Salo)).

20. With regards to claim 20, Salo teaches the method wherein the communications session is initiated repeatedly by the extension (Salo's design allows for the communication to be sustained (column 7, lines 36-38, Salo). This is equivalent to the claimed repeatedly initiating communications session).
21. With regards to claim 37, Salo teaches an extension for extending an electronic mail client application running on a computer connected to a first network for operation with a electronic mail server running on a computer connected to a second network, the network comprising a gateway connecting the first network and the second network, wherein the gateway prevents notification of new electronic mail messages from the electronic mail server to the electronic mail client, comprising: an electronic mail client application interface subsystem for integrating with the electronic mail client; and a communication initiation subsystem for causing the electronic mail client to initiate a communications session from the electronic mail client to the electronic mail server, wherein the communications session allows for information relating to new electronic

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mail messages received at the server to be communicated from the electronic mail server to the electronic mail client (Salo teaches a network design with a first and second network (Figure 1C) that uses MAPI (column 13, lines 30-47, Salo). The network contains clients and servers as claimed. Furthermore, it is inherent that means for initiating and maintaining communication sessions in networks be present. Salo discloses that such means are present within the design (column 7, lines 36-38, Salo). Finally, Salo's design possesses gateways and firewalls and uses them to connect networks to provide email service as claimed (column 3, lines 3, lines 51-65, Salo)).

Remarks

After careful review of the application, the examiner failed to note any truly unique traits within the design claimed. The claims provided are seen as being general and would benefit from the inclusion of more detailed specifications. As the claims currently stand, they are vulnerable to rejections from most email designs known at the time of the invention.

Should the applicants have any further details regarding their design that would present their design as being truly unique over the prior art provided by the examiner, they are strongly encouraged to amend the specifications and claims to reflect such changes.

Conclusion

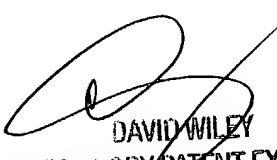
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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Azizul Choudhury whose telephone number is 703-305-7209. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Wiley can be reached on 703-308-5221. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

AC


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